March 8, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Judicial Tenure Commission charges Wayne Co. judge with unprofessional conduct

"The state's Judicial Tenure Commission on Thursday charged Wayne County Circuit Judge Bruce Morrow with unprofessional conduct and alleged that he favored defendants over victims in certain cases."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Judicial Tenure Commission files misconduct complaint against Wayne County judge

Full story

SBM Blog: Breaking: JTC Starts Formal Proceedings Against Wayne County Judge

Full story

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: JTC brings charges against Wayne Co. judge accused of misconduct

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Michigan appeals court reverses ruling in unemployment insurance case

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has reversed a case in which the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency was found in contempt of court for refusing to pay unemployment insurance to a man the agency deemed ineligible."

Full story

The Detroit News: Michigan's same-sex marriage case on hold pending Supreme Court decision

"... U.S. Judge Bernard Friedman stayed his decision in the matter Thursday at Wayne State University Law School's Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium until the U.S. Supreme Court decides two other federal cases, which will likely be in June."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Judge delays ruling on state gay marriage ban, will wait for U.S. Supreme Court decision

Full story

Associated Press: Drunken driving case revived despite cop's error

"A Detroit-area drunken driving case has been revived by the Michigan appeals court, even though the officer stopped the driver after misreading the license plate. Despite the officer's errors, the court says the case against Jamie Wilmot should go forward. In a 2-1 decision, the court says the officer didn't commit reckless conduct."

Full story

Ann Arbor.com: Judge: Medical marijuana grow and dispensing operations are not above local zoning law

"A Washtenaw County Circuit Court judge has ruled that the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act does not pre-empt local zoning laws regulating the production and distribution of the drug. The ruling is significant because it's the first court challenge to zoning laws regulating medical marijuana in the state, according to Dennis McLain, Ypsilanti Township's attorney."

Full story

Grand Rapids Legal News: Former Michigan Court of Appeals chief judge, delegate to 1961-62 Constitutional Convention mourned by Michigan courts

"Robert J. Danhof, the long-time chief judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals and a delegate to the 1961-62 Michigan Constitutional Convention, will be remembered for his intelligence, leadership, and dedication to public service, said Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. and Court of Appeals Chief Judge William B. Murphy."

Full story

Also see:

Robert J. Danhof, former Michigan Court of Appeals chief judge, delegate to 1961-62 state Constitutional Convention, mourned by Michigan courts

*Press release**

MLive.com: Michigan's no-fault auto insurance system reforms introduced in Senate

"... The Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault (CPAN) and the Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) oppose efforts to cap PIP benefits and filed a lawsuit to get rate calculation information from MCCA, contending that information is necessary for an informed debate on reforms. A Circuit Court judge ruled in favor of CPAN, but the [MCCA has appealed the ruling to the Michigan Court of Appeals]."

Full story

The Morning Sun: Editorial: Gutting courthouse security harms freedom

"... [Gratiot County Commissioner Scott] Showers and his ideological fellow travelers on the board adopted a resolution drastically cutting back security at the country courthouse in Ithaca, declaring that 'freedom outweighs security.' Their clearly stated goal is to allow people to bring firearms within inches of the courtroom doors."

Full story

The Morning Sun: Security at Clare County Building to be discussed

"If 80th District Judge Joshua Farrell hadn't started a committee to study security at the Clare County Building, it would have happened anyway. Prosecutor Michelle Ambrozaitis, who is on the committee studying security at the combined county building and courthouse in Harrison, is on the committee and thinks security is an issue that needs to be addressed."

Full story

Muskegon Chronicle: Trial for Muskegon man charged in severe stabbing halted for appeals-court ruling

"... [James] Tomas's lawyer, Paula Baker, wants the trial judge to instruct jurors that they may consider a lesser verdict of 'attempted manslaughter.'... Chief 14th Circuit Judge William C. Marietti agreed with the defense and was willing to instruct jurors on attempted manslaughter, but he granted the prosecutor's request to stay the trial – put it on hold – while the Michigan Court of Appeals considers the issue."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Judges honored at dedication of namesake library

"On Friday, March 1, the Honorable Barry M. Grant and Honorable Eugene Arthur Moore Probate Judges Library was officially dedicated at the Oakland County Probate Court. Retired Judge Barry M. Grant and Retired Judge Eugene Arthur Moore were honored at the ceremony by their family, former colleagues, staff, and many well-wishers from the court."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: House approves electronic court filing, records law

"The Michigan House Wednesday approved legislation introduced by state Rep. Kurt Heise to allow courts to maintain electronic records and utilize electronic court filings. The bill now goes to the state Senate."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Seminar to help remove Probate Court mysteries

"On Monday, March 18, the Citizens Alliance for the Oakland County Probate and Circuit Courts will conduct a free seminar titled 'Removing the Mysteries of Probate Court' at the City of Farmington Hills Senior Division-Costick Center from 1 to 3 p.m."

Full story

The Oakland Press: Sentencing for Pontiac killer delayed as US Supreme Court ruling leaves teenager's punishment uncertain

"... [Semaj] Moran, 16, was found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of felony murder and four counts of possession of a firearm in commission of a felony.... Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that mandatory sentences of life in prison without parole are unconstitutional. Under Michigan law, Moran — who was charged as an adult — is facing a mandatory life sentence for each of the murder convictions."

Full story

SBM Blog: 2015 Multistate Bar Exam To Add Civil Procedure Section

"The WSJ Law Blog reports that starting in January of 2015 the Multistate Bar Exam will add a section devoted to civil procedure. The other sections on constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedure, evidence, real property and torts will be trimmed to accommodate the new material within the same one-day time format."

Full story